

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 15880 022020Z
ACTION EA-12

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 15880

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, TH
SUBJ: STATUS OF LAEM CHABANG

USDOC FOR MEPD

1. REAR ADMIRAL SANONG NISALALI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS INFORMED EMBOFFS MAY 31 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DEEP WATERPORT AT LAEM CHABANG TO RELIEVE CONGESTION AT THE PORT OF WILL PROBABLE BE APPROVED BY THAI CABINET DURING MONTH OF JUNE.
 2. RTG HAS BEEN AWARE OF THE PRESSING NEED FOR NEW PORT FACILITIES NEAR BANGKOK FOR YEARS. PRESSURE FROM VARIOUS INTERESTGROUPS HAS STALLED FINAL DECISION ON LOCATION OF THE PORT. BOTH LAEM CHABANG AND SATTAHIP HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE SITE. SATTAHIP IS CURRENTLY THE BASE FOR ROYAL THAI NAVY AND RTN WILL RETAIN THIS PORT.
 3. SANONG EXPLAINED THAT LAEM CHABANG WILL BE CHOSEN OVER SATTAHIP BECAUSE IT HAS MORE EXTENSIVE AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING ACCESS TO HIGHWAYS WATER AND PLANNED RAIL LINES . NEARNESS TO BANGKOK WAS ALSO A FACTOR IN THE CHOICE OF LAEM CHABANG.
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4. DUTCH FIRM, NETHERLANDS ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS FOUNDATION (NEDECO), RECENTLY UPDATED THEIR 1972 FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR NEDECO HAS BEEN APPOINTED CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BREAKWATER FOR LAEM CHABANG. INVITATIONS TO BID FOR BREAKWATER PROJECT ARE EXPECTED WITHIN NEXT FOUR MONTHS. PROJECT WILL BE FINANCED THROUGH WORLD BANK

AND ADB.

5. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS HAS INVITED WORLD BANK OFFICIALS TO VISIT THAILAND TO REVIEW UPDATED NEDECO STUDY. BANK TEAM WILL ARRIVE BANGKOK JUNE 15. IF PROJECT APPROVED BY BANK, IT WILL GO TO CABINET FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

6. SANONG EXPECTS BANK AND CABINET TO APPROVE LAEM CHABANG AS SITE FOR DEEP WATER PORT BY END OF JUNE. RTG WILL THEN INVITE BIDS FOR DESIGN OF PORT AND SUPERVISORY CONSULTING ENGINEERS. SANONG EMPHASIZED DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION OF PORT SEPARATE PROJECT FROM NEDECO SUPERVISED BREAKWATER. AT PRESENT, SANONG PLANS TO INVITE BIDS FOR DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION IN EARLY JULY.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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